

around here awhile recognize full well the responsibility that goes with that sort of action and recognize full well the consequences of being responsible for rate increases. In the meantime, I think we all know who will be to blame in the event rate increases take place and we all know who will be the beneficiaries. I want to point out that the telephone companies have some legitimate concerns relative to their ability to compete in the marketplace. We did introduce a bill, LB 1119, which I believe goes a long way toward meeting some of those concerns. I am concerned that the DeCamp bill, LB 835, and the committee amendments are a step in the wrong direction, a mighty step in the wrong direction and I would urge you not to adopt the committee amendments. I will be glad to attempt to answer any questions which you might have.

PRESIDENT: The next speaker I have for the committee amendments, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I concur with Senator Schmit. You know, even those of us who serve on the Public Works Committee, this is not an easy issue for them and I know it's very difficult for everyone, but the basic thing is whether or not a monopoly should be regulated. Now in this day and age the problem is this, as I see it, that technology does produce competition in long distance rates, but technology is not advanced to the point where there is competition for local service. In other words, you've got that telephone line that comes to your house and I've got that telephone line that comes to my house south of Anselmo and that's my only outlet. There is not competition for that local service and I understand the problems of competition in long distance services for some of these companies which offer both long distance and local service. But on balance, there is not enough evidence that local rates should at this time be decontrolled because there is not the technology which allows for competition on the local level. So basically what I am saying is, yes, there needs to be some deregulation for long distance services, however, keeping in mind that some of the long distance providers are not obligated to provide local service so that complicates the whole system. But I think basically the amendment which will sometime this afternoon be offered by Senator Schmit is the way to go. It does allow a certain amount of deregulation, but it does allow the Public Service Commission to have some control over those local rates. So